

12/31/21

To me, one of life's little pleasures is a brand new notebook! All those beautiful blank pages just waiting to be filled up ... with — Art work? Poems? Journaling? Lists? Or anything else one might choose.

Standing on the threshold of a new year provokes the same feeling ... a year of days as yet untouched! — a clean slate of opportunity to choose new and different intentions.



What do you wish for YOUR new year?

Poet Mary Oliver poses a question for pondering. She says....

“Listen — are you breathing just a little and calling it a life?”

Then she gives advice...

“Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention Be astonished Tell about it.”

Perhaps instead of expecting ourselves to complete a long list of resolutions for 2022, we might create an intention to do ONE new thing — such as training ourselves to “pay attention and be astonished” and write a sentence or two each day about what astonished you.

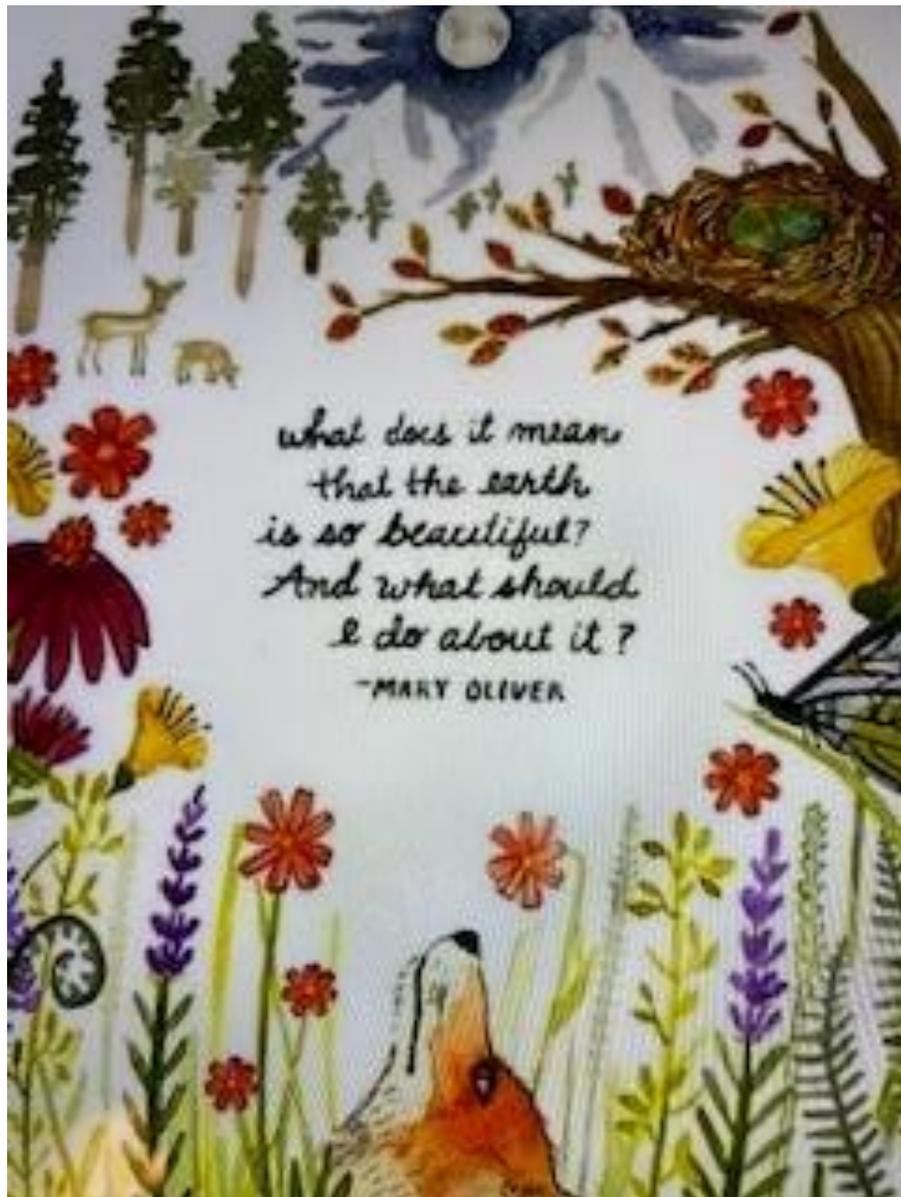
In the stressful world of today, let the words which John Ruskin wrote to his friend Kate Greenaway in 1885 bless your heart as you begin the new year... ([Click here to listen](#) — and also tune into this Sunday's ZOOM worship service to hear Eileen McCann sing it to you, accompanied by Beth Clemmons on her cello and Linda on piano).



“I wish for you some new love at lovely things
And some new forgetfulness at teasing things
Some higher pride in the praising things
Some sweeter peace from the hurrying things
And some closer fence from the worrying things...

And longer stay of time when you are happy
And lighter flight of days that are unkind.”

And when you listen — as God's beloved child that you are — close your eyes and imagine that God is singing these words just for you.



what does it mean
that the earth
is so beautiful?
And what should
I do about it?
-MARY OLIVER